

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING
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August 24, 2005

Mr. Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capital Mall
Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
201 Mission Street, Suite 2210
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attention: Ms. Sue Kiser

Attention: Mr. Ray Sukys

Dear Ms. Kiser and Mr. Sukys:

With this letter and pursuant to the authority delegated to me, I approve the following amendment of the Merced County Association of Governments' (MCAG) 2004/05-2006/07 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP):

- | <u>No.</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------|--|
| 7 | Transit Element <ul style="list-style-type: none">Modifies two projects in Merced County. The projects (MPO Ids: TJ020, TJ007) included in this amendment are funded from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. See enclosure. |
| 8 | State Element <ul style="list-style-type: none">Modifies State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Minor A lump sum project (MPO Id: CT001) per project lists constituting the lump sums. The amendment programs a total of \$1,560,000 in Fiscal Year 2005/06. See enclosure. |

I am also recommending that the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration approve FTIP Amendments No. 7 and 8 for inclusion into California's 2004/05-2006/07 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). Projects included in this FTIP in fiscal years not within the three-year cycle of the current FSTIP are not approved as part of these FTIP amendments and are shown for information only. Please note that the approval of the Amendment No. 7 does not constitute eligibility

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determination for the projects from this amendment that are funded from CMAQ program.

The updated programming is for project types within Table 2 & 3 - Exempt Projects, of 40 CFR § 93.126 and § 93.127 that are exempt from the conformity determination requirement. Therefore, these FTIP amendments are consistent with the State Implementation Plan. The financial impacts of these amendments are compatible with anticipated revenues in the FSTIP Financial Plan and do not significantly affect the overall financial analysis. These projects are included and submitted by MCAG through the California Transportation Improvement Program System (CTIPS).

In accordance with existing law, public involvement procedures are a part of the project selection process. MCAG prepared these FTIP amendments under that process permitting citizens, affected local agencies, other public agencies, and other interested parties reasonable opportunity for comment.

Please address any questions on this FSTIP approval request to Abhijit Bagde of my staff, at (916) 654-3638.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross A. Chittenden", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ROSS A. CHITTENDEN

Chief

Division of Transportation Programming

Enclosures

c: Steven Barhite - EPA Office of Air Planning (w/enclosure)
Jesse B. Brown - Merced County Association of Governments
Terri Lewis - Merced County Association of Governments
Rachel Falsetti - Caltrans
Abhijit Bagde - Caltrans